

Experiences with Horses

DRAWER 3A -

Personality

712009 025 1211120



# Abraham Lincoln's Personality

## Experiences with Horses

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



LITTLE "TAD" LINCOLN ON HIS PONY.

Enlarged from an old photograph taken in 1863. Copyright, 1902, by Viola H. Gilbert.



# LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor  
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 651

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

September 29, 1941

## BRANDS AND MARKS

Another interesting document bearing the signature of Abraham Lincoln has just been discovered in the Macon County, Illinois Archives, by Edwin D. Davis. A few days ago the editor of Lincoln Lore, recalling his own research experiences in Kentucky Court Houses, advised Mr. Davis about the historical value of old estray records. This lead was followed up with the result that another manuscript bearing on the early life of Lincoln in Illinois is available.

Whenever an animal strayed from his owner, and was found, the person taking possession of the stray went before a justice of the peace and a full description of the animal was recorded and advertised. The value of the stock was also estimated by some disinterested party. It was in the capacity of appraisers that Lincoln's and John W. Reed's names appear as signers of the following affirmation:

"We the signers having been called to appraise an Estray Mare Taken up by Jonathen B Brown on Monday the 12 th day of Dec. 1830. Do find horse to be four years old next Spring a bright bay 14 hands high a Small blaze and a stripe in her face, right foot white right fore foot with a white stripe down the hough and white hairs around the edge of the hough no brands perceivable black mane and tail appraised to 30 Dollars. Sworn under hands this 16 th day of December 1830.

"A Lincoln  
"John W reed"

It is not known whether or not Lincoln filed a notice of the horse he lost, a year and a half later. The loss of this animal cost Lincoln dearly, because it contributed as much as any other factor to his first and only political defeat at the hands of the people.

Lincoln was a member of a mounted company in the Black Hawk War, when the company was mustered out July 10 at White Water River at a point now in Wisconsin. Planning to start early the following morning for New Salem, he found upon arising that someone had stolen his horse. The necessity of traveling much of the way by foot did not allow him to arrive in New Salem until July 18, only seventeen days before the election. With so little time to campaign and his horse gone, he could have reached but a very few people.

The Macon County document recently discovered was not the only time Lincoln was called upon to place a value on a stray horse. On November 14, 1834, he joined with Samuel Hill in the appraisal at \$30 of a "two-year-old brown filly taken up by Thomas Dowell at his farm near Clary's Grove."

Just five days after this Lincoln had the experience of losing another horse, this loss, however, did not occur until after he had won a place in the Legislature. On a judgment obtained against William Green, his partner in the store enterprise, Lincoln's horse, saddle and bridle were sold on execution November 19, but fortunately bid in by James Short and returned to Lincoln.

The following year on May 29, 1835, Lincoln again served as an appraiser. With James F. Halsey he valued a stray horse taken up by James Estep who lived on Crain Creek. The animal was "a chestnut sorrel horse, seven or eight years old, a star on his forehead with no brands perceivable and appraised to \$35.00."

One year later on March 17, 1836, Lincoln had occasion to enter a notice for the recovery of his own horse which had strayed away while he was visiting in Springfield, but still living in New Salem. He was there

serving as a witness in the trespass case of William G. Green vs. John Purkapile, and two days after he lost his horse, he bought his first property in Springfield, two house lots between Sixth and Seventh streets. The following notice gives us a description of the horse Lincoln probably owned at this time:

### Strayed or Stolen

"From a stable in Springfield on Wednesday, 18th inst., a large bay horse, star in his forehead, plainly marked with harness; supposed to be eight years old; had been shod all around, but is believed to have lost some of his shoes, and trots and paces. Any person who will take up said horse and leave information at the Journal Office or with the subscriber at New Salem, shall be liberally paid for their trouble.

"A. Lincoln."

Whether or not this was the horse which James Short had bid in for him two years before we do not know, but it was eight years old. The fact that it was plainly marked with harness, might indicate it was a new purchase, unless Lincoln was working the horse in helping to break prairie land. It is not likely Lincoln was using a wheeled vehicle as early as this and would not have his horse so marked.

Abraham Lincoln's father, Thomas Lincoln, took up a stray horse in Kentucky in 1811, when Abraham Lincoln was but two years old. This estray notice in the old Hardin County, Kentucky record book is one of the most important Kentucky documents on the history of the Lincoln family, as it definitely establishes the residence of Thomas Lincoln at Knob Creek home as early as the month of May 1811. Up to the time of the discovery of the record, every biographer, without an exception, placed the Lincoln residence at the birthplace farm as four years, but according to the important document which follows, it could not have been more than two:

"11th of May 1811 Taken up by Thomas Lincoln in Hardin County on knob Creek on the road leading from Bairdstown to Nolin a A Gray mare 8 years old 14 hands high Branded on the near thigh but not legible a scar on her off side with a dark spot on her neck on the offside under the main about the size of a dollar a sore Back trots Natural appraised to \$20"

Often-times in Kentucky the negro slaves were obliged to register physical defects which might be used for identification. In the county court book at Elizabethtown, Kentucky, Monday, June 23, 1806 this entry appears:

"George a negro slave of Samuel Givens came into court and proved by Edward Rawlings that he, the nigger, in a fight had part of his left ear bitten off which was ordered to be entered on record."

Something of the atmosphere and terminology of the descriptions in the old estray books found expression in an appraisal which Lincoln made of himself and he must have chuckled when he wrote down the final notation about marks and brands. He prepared an autobiographical sketch for Jesse Fell in 1859 and concluded with this paragraph:

"If any personal description of me is thought desirable, it may be said I am, in height, six feet four inches, nearly; lean in flesh, weighing on an average one hundred and eighty pounds, dark complexion with coarse black hair and grey eyes. No other marks or brands recollected."

ROBERT F. HUNT  
NEWTOWN, R. D. 2, BUCKS CO., PA.

April 9th, 1947

Dear Dr. Warren:

I have seen and admired your fine work as editor of "Lincoln Lore".

The reason I am Writing you is that I am making a serious study on Lincoln's horses. I am wondering if amongst the great mass of material you might have anything concerning this great man's horses.

I am especially interested in his horses prior to the Civil War.

Here are a few suggestions which I think might help you answer my question.

1. Lincoln and the horse he rode to the Black Hawk War.
2. The horses he rode or drove during his days on the Circuit.
3. Did Lincoln have a horse in Springfield before he was nominated for President?

Thanking you and hoping to hear from you in the near future,

I remain,

Sincerely,

Robert F. Hunt



April 18, 1947

Mr. Robert F. Hunt  
R. F. D. # 2, Bucks County  
Newtown, Pennsylvania

My dear Mr. Hunt:

There is just a brief mention of the horse which Lincoln rode in the Black Hawk War and which was stolen from him the night on which he was mustered out of service.

There is also a story about a horse he had when he was in Salem at the time he was a surveyor. Many times there is mentioned a horse which he rode while traveling the circuit in Illinois and there is a picture available of the last horse he owned which was located in Springfield and a picture taken of it draped in mourning. Of course, he also owned a team of horses at the White House.

Very truly yours,

LAW:JT  
L.A. Warren

Director

## THE "DRAPED" BUST OF LINCOLN BY VOLK—No. 5



In an attempt to establish the correct sequence of the Volk busts of Lincoln it appears that the draped bust would logically follow the "Hermes" and short busts.

The draped bust is generally thirty-two inches high, but it also appears in a thirty inch height, and plaster replicas in these sizes can likely be purchased today from statuary companies for about \$25.

Volk, it is believed, made companion busts of Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas in a reduced size measuring twenty-nine and twenty-eight inches respectively, with a considerable reduction in the width of Lincoln's shoulders when compared with the original thirty-two inch study. Other draped busts, made to scale, but greatly reduced in height have likely been manufactured by companies who have infringed on Volk's patent.

The Lincoln National Life Foundation has in its collection of statuary a draped bust which might be considered an infringement on Volk's patent. It is thirty inches high on a plain pedestal with greatly reduced shoulders. It bears no imprint while the original thirty-two inch bust is inscribed "Lincoln from Life by L. W. Volk."

### LINCOLN RODE HORSEBACK IN THE GETTYSBURG PROCESSION

When President Lincoln rode horseback in the procession to the Gettysburg Cemetery on November 19, 1863 to deliver his immortal address, observers were quick to notice his horsemanship. One observer recalled that he "sat at first erect upon his horse, handling the reins of the bridle in the white gauntlet gloves he wore, in such a stately and dignified manner as to make him appear as the commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, which he was."

Dressed in a black suit and high silk hat with a crepe band, he mounted his "young and beautiful chestnut horse" in front of the David Wills' residence where he was a guest. A crowd gathered immediately and so many people wished to shake the President's hand, he held a "reception on horseback" until stopped by the marshals.

After a thirty minute delay the procession got underway. The route of travel was only three-quarters of a mile long and the march was over in about fifteen minutes, yet enroute Lincoln slumped forward, "his arms swinging, his body limp and his whole frame swaying from side to side."

Other distinguished personages, including Secretaries

Seward, Blair and Usher, the board of commissioners, foreign ministers, legation secretaries, governors and their staffs, civic organizations along with Lamon, Nicolay, Hay, General Fry, Lieutenant Cochrane and certain military personnel, made up the procession. Edward Everett, the orator of the day, did not ride in the procession as he arrived thirty minutes late.

Enroute, the horse of Lieut. Cochrane behaved badly and that officer spent considerable time preventing his "mischievous brute" from "browsing" on the tail of the President's horse.

It was generally conceded that the horse furnished Lincoln was not well designed for the duty assigned. Due to the President's height, most people who viewed the procession believed Lincoln's horse was either too small or that Lincoln's towering figure made the rest of the riders appear out of proportion to their mounts.

Lincoln secured his horse from Captain Henry B. Blood, an assistant quartermaster of volunteers.

The horse was sent to Lincoln upon his request:

"Capt. Blood furnish one horse for bearer. Nov. 19, 1863.

A. Lincoln"

### WHAT IT COSTS THE PRESIDENT (LINCOLN) TO LIVE

"The official salary of the President is fixed by law at twenty-five thousand dollars per annum, or one hundred thousand dollars for his term of four years. At the beginning of each term Congress makes an appropriation for refurbishing the Executive Mansion. The kitchen and pantry are supplied to a considerable extent by the same body. Congress pays all the employees about the house, from the private secretary to the humblest boot-black; it provides fuel and lights; keeps up the stables; and furnishes a corps of gardeners and a garden to supply the Presidential board with fruits, flowers, and vegetables. Besides this, the President receives many presents from private parties. Many persons suppose that these allowances ought to be enough to enable him to live comfortably. They are mistaken, however. The President is required by public opinion to live in a style consistent with the dignity of his position and the honor of the country, and such a mode of life imposes upon him very heavy expenses. Besides this, he is expected to be liberal and charitable towards persons and meritorious causes seeking his aid, and 'their name is legion.' He cannot give as a private individual; his donation must be large. The expense of entertaining the various officers of the Government, members of Congress, and Foreign Ministers is enormous; so that, when all things are considered, it is a wonder how the President can live decently upon the small allowance made him by Congress, especially at the present time when prices are so high, and the currency so much depreciated. One hundred thousand dollars per annum would not be too much to allow him."

John B. Ellis: The Sights and Secrets of The National Capitol. 1869.

### REASONS FOR VOTING FOR LINCOLN

Reader, you should vote for Abraham Lincoln because he is pledged to administer the government as did Washington and Jefferson, vis:—for the best interests of the whole country.

Second.—Because his election will give peace and quiet to the country, of which it is sadly in need.

Third.—Because in his election all branches of industry will revive, business will be good and wages high.

Fourth.—Because a vote so cast will reflect credit upon the head and heart, and give evidence of a backbone which will resist all exertions to plant Slavery upon soil now free. Of him who so votes it will be said "well done, good and faithful servant."

Lincoln and Liberty, Tract No. 4  
New York, July 11, 1860 M. 63

Microfilm of the newspaper *Western Sun*, Vincennes, Indiana, from 1807 to 1828 has been acquired by the Lincoln National Life Foundation.





# Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of The Lincoln National Life Foundation . . . Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Editor  
Published each month by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1442

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

April, 1958

## THE LINCOLNS: PIONEER HORSE BREEDERS AND RACING ENTHUSIASTS.

The Lincolns, like most Kentucky pioneers were interested in good horseflesh. The president's father and uncle, while living in Kentucky, were able in a small measure to make a contribution to the improvement of the blood lines of Kentucky horses. This early interest in horses, manifested by Kentuckians, accounts for the Blue-Grass State's present-day fame on the turf.

Interest in blooded horses was handed down from pioneer father to pioneer son in the Lincoln family. While it is true that the younger generations of the Lincolns did not become leaders in the enterprise, nevertheless, they were interested in the thoroughbred and saddle horse. Contemporary accounts reveal that the president was a skilled horseman, and in his youth enjoyed a good horse race, as well as acting as an official at rural race tracks.

The interest of the pioneer Lincolns in this particular avocation is not surprising, as the state of Kentucky was, and is ideally situated for such an enterprise. Pioneer Kentuckians immediately sensed the possibilities of the horse industry. On May 27, 1785, the first law-making body of Kentucky met, and after providing for "courts" and the "common defense," this significant record was made: "On the motion of Mr. Boone (Daniel Boone) leave is given to bring in a bill for improving the breed of horses."

It is believed that the Lincolns, on their migration from Virginia to Kentucky in the year 1782, used horses for transportation, and in the establishment of their new home these animals probably became an important factor. Captain Abraham Lincoln, the President's grandfather, after a four year residence in Kentucky, was killed by

an Indian. The inventory of his estate, compiled by the appraisers on March 10, 1789, indicated that he owned along with other property: "one sorrel horse valued at eight (English) pounds and one black horse valued at nine pounds and ten shillings." The evaluation of these two horses by appraisers indicates that they were exceptionally fine animals, likely being bred at the Virginia stables of John Lincoln, the father of Abraham Lincoln, Senior.

The widow of the deceased Captain moved with her five children from Jefferson County to Washington County, Thomas Lincoln, the father of the president, was the youngest of the three sons, being about ten years of age at the time of his father's death. Their new neighbor, John Caldwell, who was probably a relative of the family, was appointed in the year 1788, as administrator of the estate. Caldwell owned one of the finest stallions in Kentucky. On March 22, 1788 this advertisement appeared in the *Kentucky Gazette*, published at Lexington, Kentucky: "Darius, the fastest horse in Kentucky, will make the season at John Caldwell's in Nelson county."

This fine stallion must have been greatly admired by Mordecai, Josiah, and Thomas, the three orphaned sons. While living as a neighbor to the Caldwells, Thomas Lincoln not only had an opportunity to see the fastest horse in Kentucky, but here in all probability he and his older brother Mordecai, became interested in bloodstock production.

Mordecai received the bulk of the Lincoln estate through the law of primogeniture and it was probably due to his close business relationship with John Caldwell

Gray  
mare 426  
11<sup>th</sup> of May 1811 Taken up by Thomas  
Lincoln in Hardin County on Knob Creek on  
the road leading from Pandstown to Nolin a  
Gray mare 8 years old 14 hands high Branded  
on the near thigh but not legible a scar on  
her off side with a dark spot on her neck  
on the off side under the mane about the  
size of a dollar a sore Back trots Natural  
Appraised to \$ 20 Peter Atherton OP 82



that he became a horse breeder. Mordecai purchased the "celebrated stallion" called Strong Sampson. In addition to this horse, he also owned at the same time five other horses. These were likely selected brood mares. Early records show that one of the five horses mentioned was a "valuable brown mare."

While Mordecai Lincoln may have operated a successful breeding stable, he had some unfortunate circumstances befall his interests. Because of a misunderstanding concerning the purchase price of Strong Sampson, Lincoln brought suit against Coonrod Matthis, the former owner of the stallion. The suit was eventually won by Lincoln after extensive litigation lasting more than six years.

One of the most discouraging incidents in the career of this pioneer horse breeder was the loss of a valuable brown mare. While Mordecai was on a visit to the town of Springfield, the county seat of Washington County, Kentucky, he left his mare in the care of a tavern keeper named William Pile. Upon calling for the mare she could not be found. A suit was brought before the court by Lincoln against Pile: "Mordecai Lincoln complains of William Pile in custody of a plea of trespass on the case whereas the Deft. . . . at the parish of Kentucky aforesaid was a public inn keeper, in the town of Springfield . . . the plaintiff was possessed of a brown mare of the value of twenty-five pounds, and did deliver said mare into the hands and keeping of said Deft., as tavern keeper to keep said mare for pay and restore said mare when requested to the plaintiff who was at that time the said Deft's. guest. Nevertheless the Deft. did so careless and neglectfully attend to the mare of the plaintiff that she, the said mare, was lost or stolen out of the possession of the keeping of the Deft."

The jury awarded Lincoln the sum of ten pounds, or \$48.50. As few horses were appraised for more than five pounds as early as March 1800, the date of the suit, it must be concluded that the sum of ten pounds was an exceptionally high evaluation for a court to place on a horse. The fact that Mordecai valued the mare at twenty-five pounds must indicate it was a splendid animal.

A compilation of entries from the Commissioner's Tax Books of Hardin County reveals that Thomas Lincoln listed for taxes as many as four horses at one time during his residence in Kentucky:

- 1804—Linkhorn, Thomas—1 Horse
- 1805—Linkhorn, Thomas—1 Horse
- 1806—Linkhorn, Thomas—
- 1807—Linkhorn, Thomas—1 Horse
- 1808—Linkhorn, Thomas—1 Horse
- 1809—Linkhorn, Thomas—2 Horse
- 1810—Linkhorn, Thomas—2 Horse
- 1811—Lincoln, Thomas—1 Horse
- 1812—Lincoln, Thomas—3 Horse
- 1813—Lincoln, Thomas—2 Horse
- 1814—Lincoln, Thomas—3 Horse
- 1815—Lincoln, Thomas—4 Horse (1 Stallion)
- 1816—Lincoln, Thomas—4 Horse

Out of 104 (tithables) taxpayers shown in the Commissioner's Book for the year 1815, only six other residents of the county had as many horses as Thomas Lincoln. The fact that he was required to pay an extra fee to own a stallion for breeding purposes indicates his interest in the improvement of blooded stock. Although the limited financial status of the president's father did not allow him to own as finely bred horses as his older brother, there are many indications of his interest along this line.

On October 10, 1814, the year Thomas Lincoln owned three horses, he purchased at the Jonathan Joseph sale, held at the court house door in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, "one curry comb." The purchase price was sixty-three cents. As the curry comb was seldom used by farmers on their work horses, this indicates that Thomas kept his horses in a well groomed condition.

While living on Knob Creek in the year 1811, Thomas "took up" an stray gray mare and listed it on the "Book of Estrays" as required by law. The detailed description of this gray mare indicates that Lincoln was a close observer of the distinguishing marks of horses. The original stray notice follows: "Taken up by Thomas Lincoln in Hardin county on Knob Creek, on the road leading from Bardstown to Nolin, a gray mare, eight years old, fourteen hands high, branded on the near

thigh but not legible, a scar on her off side, with a dark spot on her neck on the off side under the mane about the size of a dollar, a sore back, trots naturally, appraised to twenty dollars."

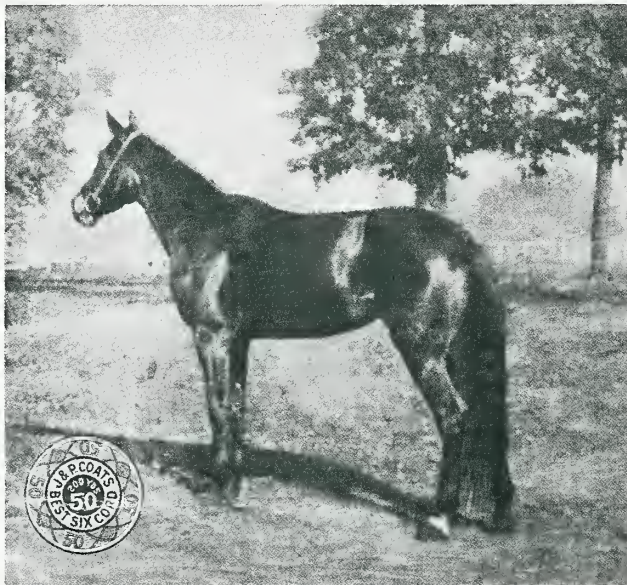
Horse racing, the sport of kings, was a favorite recreation of the early citizens of pioneer Kentucky. Because of these early racing meets, Kentucky was able to establish prestige in this field of recreation. An advertisement in the *Kentucky Gazette* for August 22, 1789, announced a fall meet at Lexington: "A purse race at Lexington on the 2nd Thursday next, free for any mare, horse or gelding, weight for age, agreeable to the rules of New Market. 3 mile heats, the best two in three; one-quarter of an hour between heats allowed for rubbing . . ."

While the Lincolns were living in Kentucky there were several race tracks in Hardin County. They were called "race paths" and the race was called a "course." The best race path in the county was located at Middle Creek, midway between Hodgenville and Elizabethtown, called Martin's Turf. This course was used while Abraham Lincoln lived in Kentucky, and it was only about eight miles from the South Fork of Nolin River farm.

A "corn list made and run for on Middle Creek" in the year 1810, listed thirty prominent citizens of Hardin County and the number of bushels of corn donated by them for purses for the different events. The total number of bushels of corn donated for the 1810 event amounted to five hundred and twenty in all. The corn list follows: "We the undersigned wishing to improve the breed of horses in Hardin county do for that purpose propose a course, race to be run on Martin's Turf on Middle Creek, on the third Thursday, Friday and Saturday in October next, to be free for any horse, mare or gelding owned by an residenter of Hardin county at this time: to run the first day three miles and repeat, the second day two miles and repeat, the third day one mile and repeat. To be run under the rules and direction of the Lexington Jockey Club, for which we, the undersigned, do oblige ourselves to pay the quantity of corn opposite our names, to the winners by their demanding it, between the first day of December next and the twenty-fifth, as witness our hands this 13th day of August, 1810."

On such an important occasion it is probable that the Thomas Lincoln family was present. As many of the men on the corn list were church members it is likely that they were allowed by their strict pioneer ministers to attend, even though the early churches frowned upon the affairs. Possibly the clause "wishing to improve the breed of horses" gained the approval of the church officials.

The minutes of the Severns Valley Baptist Church, dated October 22, 1802 reveal a disapproval of horse



Nancy Hanks

The Champion Trotting Mare, Record 2.04. Pedigree: Happy Medium, dam Nancy Lee, by Dicador, (brother of Dexter).



racers: "Some of the members informed the church of Brother John Haycraft's misconduct in riding his horse around the race ground." The date of this entry clearly indicates that race paths existed in Hardin County as early as 1802.

Promiscuous betting on horses was also engaged in by the early residents of Hardin County. The suit of Hanks vs. Williamson for the payment of a note likely resulted because of a horse race. Williamson charged "that note was won on a bet on a horse race, which makes it fraudulent." Hank stated, "it was not a bet on a horse race." The note, nevertheless, was dated November 7, 1810, about two weeks after the big race at Middle Creek.

It has been discovered that in 1808 Joseph Hanks, a relative of Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks, bought a black colt and a fine saddle at a sale. Very likely he rode this colt at the Middle Creek race, and it may be supposed that the Hanks vs. Williamson suit resulted in bets placed on the black colt.

The Middle Creek race of 1810 was undoubtedly the outstanding sporting event of that community for many years. It was conducted under the Lexington Jockey Club rules and was not unlike a similar meet held in Lexington the same year. The provisions of the Lexington meet were as follows: "The first day the heat was to be four miles and the purse \$150. The second day the heat was two miles, and the purse was the entrance money of the two preceding days. The horses were to start each day at twelve o'clock and carry weight as follows: aged horses, 126 pounds; six years old, 122 pounds; five years old, 114 pounds; four years old, 100 pounds; three years old, 86 pounds. The riders were to be dressed in silk or satin jackets and wear caps."

Another important race path from the standpoint of its Lincoln association was located on the Merrifield property, adjacent to the Lincoln birthplace farm. This race course was later destroyed by a citizen who sought to uplift the morals of the community. It was at this race path, situated only one-half mile from the Lincoln cabin home, that the pioneers trained their horses for the more important meets in the county.

When the Lincoln family moved to Indiana it is likely that they retained their interest in horses, but the new country in which they made their home afforded few opportunities to engage in the popular Kentucky sport. However, it is not at all unlikely that many unofficial racing meets were held in backwoods Indiana which were either witnessed by or participated in by some of the members of the Lincoln family.

Once the Lincolns were settled in Illinois, Abraham moved on to New Salem. While living in this rural community he came in contact with a fast, wild, rollicking crowd of young men from Clary's Grove, who would gamble or fight at the drop of a hat. These men were interested in horse racing, and on many occasions races were held in the village.

These sporting events were held on West Main Street in New Salem; the race either starting or ending near the Berry & Lincoln store. On Saturdays the men living in the surrounding communities rode into the town on their favorite horses, anxious to race and bet on their favorites to win, place or show.

When these races were held Abraham Lincoln perhaps many times acted as a judge. Undoubtedly his Kentucky background caused him to be considered an authority on the rules and procedures of a meet. He must have established a name for himself as a racing official, because Stephen A. Douglas on one occasion while engaged in the Lincoln-Douglas debates made the following statement concerning his abilities along this line: "The dignity and impartiality with which he (Lincoln) presided at a horse race or fist fight excited the admiration and won the praise of everybody that was present and participated."

The establishment of the Thomas Lincoln stable of horses on Knob Creek during the last few years of his Kentucky residence may account for the horse breeding farms located there today. Knob Creek has always been famous for its horses. Many beautiful saddle horses shown both in New York and Chicago have been raised and trained on the farm adjoining the Lincoln tract. Red Light, at one time the champion saddle horse in America, was the product of a Knob Creek breeding stable.

During the years 1871 to 1873 General George Armstrong Custer with a battalion of soldiers was stationed in Elizabethtown, to control the Ku Klux Klan and Carpetbaggers, and to break up illicit distilleries which had sprung up during the Civil War. While stationed in this community his men were able to procure fine horses from the town and surrounding country. The Seventh Cavalry because of these excellent horses probably became the best mounted troop of the entire regular army. When Custer and his command were massacred by the Sioux Indians on June 25, 1876, the seasoned soldiers were mounted on Kentucky horses. Undoubtedly many of the horses were purchased in the Knob Creek community, although it would be mere conjecture to say some were of the strain of the Lincoln stock.

The name of Lincoln's mother became a household word to a past generation of horse breeders because of the records of a champion trotting mare named Nancy Hanks. Her record was 2.04 and her pedigree listed the names of Happy Medium and the dam Nancy Lee which was by Dictator, a brother of Dexter. During the years that this trotting mare was being raced, she became almost more famous than the woman for whom she was named.

While the fame of the mare Nancy Hanks was still at its height, a group of Kentucky horse breeders, in order to appropriately celebrate in their own way the one hundredth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, on February 12, 1809, held a reception of horses in the President's honor.

A newspaper account, taken from the *South Bend (Indiana) Times* on the anniversary date, reported the event as follows: "Nancy Hanks, former champion of the trotting turf was hostess at a reception at Hamburg Place Stud (Lexington, Kentucky,) today which was attended by many of the most famous horses in the world as aside from those quartered on the same farm, others were present from the farm of W. E. Stokes, Walnut Hill Farm, Harkness, and other breeders near by. The reception was the unique plan of John E. Madden to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, the noted mare having been named for the mother of the martyred President. At the celebration this morning in the presence of several hundred people, Madden christened the yearling daughter of the mare 'Mary Todd' in honor of the wife of Lincoln."

The famous mare is buried on the Madden farm at Hamburg place, on the Winchester pike, about two miles from Lexington. Her grave is appropriately marked with a granite stone and a bronze plate. It cannot be said with credit to the American people that up until twenty-five or thirty years ago the grave of the trotting mare was more appropriately marked in Kentucky than the grave of Lincoln's mother in Indiana.

While Lincoln was president there were many accounts of his appearance on horseback. He is described as being a fine horseman, who could so completely manage a horse as to establish himself immediately as its master. Many of his oft-repeated stories and jokes also concerned horses, racing and horse trades. With the possible exception of our military presidents, it may be said that Lincoln was one of the best horsemen ever to be elected to the presidency.

The interest of the Lincoln family in the "Sport of Kings" should be one of the cherished traditions of the sporting world.

See Louis A. Warren's "Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood", The Century Co., 1926

## Heroic Lincoln Statues In Bronze

*Heroic Lincoln Statues in Bronze* is the title of an illustrated folder published in 1957 by the Lincoln National Life Foundation, Fort Wayne Indiana. The numerical list of statues, numbering seventy-six studies, are arranged according to the date of dedication, ranging from 1869 to 1956. The name of the sculptor of each statue is given along with the location by cities and towns. Copies are available upon request.



January 27, 1965

The Lincoln National Life  
Insurance Company  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

ATTENTION: Editor, Lincoln Lore, #685, May 25, 1942

Dear Sir:

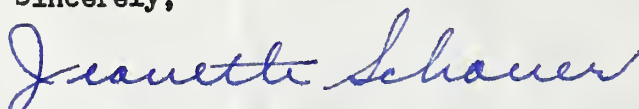
I am writing an article treating the Morgan Horse.

In my research, I came across a reference in the above Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation to an article entitled "The President's Carriages". At the end of the article is the sentence "Little space is left to say very much about the horses which drew the vehicles..."

Another reference in "The American Horse Breeder" of June 6, 1891 states at the beginning of President's term, a team of black carriage horses (Morgans) was purchased for him in Central New York for a reputed price of \$3000. Can you help me with some facts about this team of black Morgans belonging to President Lincoln, please? They were still in the White House stables at the time of his death. I would be particularly interested in any photographs which might exist, in addition to any information as to where they were purchased, from whom, when, any mention of their breeding, names, ages, etc.

Any help you can give me will be greatly appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Jeanette Schauer  
3128 Penny Creek Road  
Bothell, Washington 98011

*Sullivan*

January 29, 1965

Mrs. Jeanette Schauer  
3128 Penny Creek Road  
Bothell, Washington 98011

Dear Mrs. Schauer:

In the absence of Dr. McMurtry, who will be away on a speaking tour until the second week of March, I am taking the liberty of answering your letter of January 27 regarding the team of carriage horses owned by President Lincoln.

I am sorry to tell you that so far I have been unable to find any additional information on the black Morgans.

Your letter will be brought to the attention of Dr. McMurtry upon his return; meanwhile, I shall continue to look for additional references to horses in which you are interested.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Ruth P. Higgins

rh/

Schauer

February 3, 1965

Mrs. Ruth P. Higgins  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mrs. Higgins:

Thank you for your letter of January 29, received yesterday.

Your offer to continue looking for additional references to the Lincoln Morgans is much appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Sincerely,

*Jeanette Schauer*

Mrs. Jeanette Schauer  
3128 Penny Creek Road  
Bothell, Washington 98011



February 16, 1965

Director  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

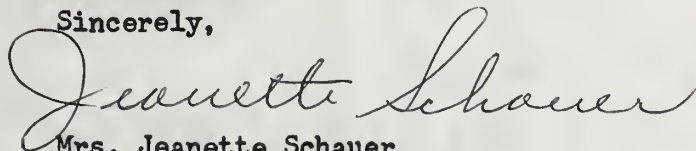
Dear Sir:

I am writing a free-lance article on the Morgan Horse. In my research I ran across an article credited to Macfarland in the New York SUN. In this article Mr. Macfarland stated that Presidents Lincoln, Pierce and Harrison all owned and used Morgan Horses. President Lincoln's black carriage team was supposedly purchased in Central New York for a reputed \$3000 at the beginning of his time in office, and pulled his carriage until his death. The SUN article was reprinted in the American Horse Breeder published in Boston , issue of June 6, 1891.

Can you help me locate some information on President Lincoln's horses? I would be interested in knowing anything you can find out about any of the horses, particularly who purchased the horses, from whom, when, the horses' names, descriptions, if possible their breeding, how long they remained in the White House Stables. I would be interested in knowing of any photographs or sketches which might exist of these horses, also, with the thought of using them as illustrations of my article.

Any help you can give me will be greatly appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Jeanette Schauer  
3128 Penny Creek Road  
Bothell, Washington 98011

July 26, 1965

Mrs. Jeanette Schauer  
3128 Pennycreek Road  
Bothell, Washington 98011

Dear Mrs. Schauer:

In looking over some correspondence between you and my secretary, Mrs. Ruth Higgins, I note that last February you were writing an article about Morgan horses - particularly those which were ridden or driven by Abraham Lincoln.

If your article was published, would it be possible for me to acquire a copy for our Foundation Collection?

I would like to collect enough information to do an article on Lincoln and horses for a future issue of *Lincoln Lore*.

I regret that we were of so little help when you were writing your article.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry  
Director

RGM:rph

July 31, 1965

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Director  
The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

Thank you for your letter of July 26.

The article about which I wrote last February has not yet been published. As a matter of fact, Lincoln's Morgan Horses so interested me that I have devoted the past few months to research on this particular incident alone. Information so far has been sparse, but I grow more and more encouraged.

Should the article be published, I will be happy to see that you receive a copy. It would give me great pleasure to contribute whatever I can to an article for "Lincoln Lore". You will hear from me in the future.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Jeanette Schauer*

Mrs. Jeanette Schauer  
3128 Penny Creek Road  
Bothell, Washington 98011



July 31, 1965

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry  
The Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. McMurtry:

It occurred to me, after I had written the first letter to you this morning, that perhaps you would be interested in the following information I received from the Library of Congress.

In her book "The Story of the White House", Esther Singleton included the following story, believed to be from a newspaper of the time but with no source given:

"Mrs. Lincoln had only been in her new home a few days when she had the following delightful surprise:

"W.S. Wood drove to the White House and presented to Mrs. Lincoln on behalf of certain unknown parties of the State of New York, a span of splendid black carriage horses, which were gratefully accepted by her."

(New York. The McClure Company. 1907, Vol. II, p. 83)

This event most likely took place on or about April 10, 1861, thus making the time in relation to their occupancy of the White House the same as that stated in the New York SUN article of June 6, 1891 by McFarland. Also, this W. S. Wood was a resident of New York, prominent figure, and associated with several other prominent New Yorkers who were with him in Washington D.C. on this same April 10. Wood was the individual who made the arrangements on the train which brought Lincoln and his party from Springfield to Washington., Also the description as to color, and the fact that the Morgan of early days was popularly the darker colors and the most popular carriage horse of the era, gives me great encouragement.

Since all of this is unconfirmed information, I would not wish it published in any form, of course. However, perhaps there is a lead that might tie in with some information you have in your files there.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Jeanette Schauer*  
Mrs. Jeanette Schauer

August 4, 1965

Mrs. Jeanette Schauer  
3128 Penny Creek Road  
Bothell, Washington 98011

Dear Mrs. Schauer:

I was pleased to receive your two letters regarding your research on horses that the Lincolns used or owned.

Our files are of little value as we have practically nothing on the subject. Are you interested only in Morgan horses?

In David Homer Bates' book, "Lincoln In The Telegraph Office," pages 346 - 348, I find the following: "Upon Lincoln's arrival at City Point, March 24 (1865), Grant had offered him the choice of his two favorite horses, "Cincinnati" and "Little Jeff". Lincoln selected the former, being the larger of the two, as better suited to his tall form, and during his stay he frequently rode Cincinnati around the camp. He was a good rider and greatly enjoyed this recreation, and when Grant went to the front to personally direct the general assault upon Lee's army along a line of over thirty miles, he left a trusted groom in charge of Cincinnati, so that if the movement should prove successful, the President might ride out to the front. Cincinnati was richly caparisoned with all the Lieutenant-General's embellishments and insignia of rank, and although the President did not fully appreciate the magnificence of his mount, he admired the splendid action of the matchless war-horse."

Of course, I will not use any of the information you have given me until you publish your article.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry  
Director

RGM:rph

## A LINE O' TYPE OR TWO

*Hew to the Line, let the  
quips fall where they may.*

Reg. U. S.  
Pat. Office

### HISTORICAL, MAYBE

Uncle Billy, the sage of Fancy Prairie, often said, "Never lend a friend your horse or your wife. Tho who would want them, I do not know." So quoth Abe Lincoln by way of refusing the loan of his horse to his favorite barber, James Drew. "I will sell Robin to you for \$25 cash," said Mr. Lincoln, "on a money-back guarantee."

A bay gelding of 15 hands, Robin was not a prepossessing steed, but Mr. Drew was in dire need of a mount and the price seemed right.

"You will find Robin willing under saddle or in hame and traces," said Mr. Lincoln, "and he is not old enough to vote." Cash in hand completed the deal.

Barber Drew returned in a fortnight, demanding a refund. "Mr. Lincoln, I have found this equine to be balky, awkward, nearsighted, and he gnaws wood. White pine is Robin's manna."

"Return this noble beast," said Mr. Lincoln, "and I shall reimburse you. I must tell you, Mr. Drew, that altho I do not admire Robin greatly, I find some of his vices to be virtues. When he balked, I always figured he had stopped so he wouldn't miss any commands. As to his awkwardness in front of a plow, well, now, that's because he's a gentleman farmer. Robin's habit of bumping into trees and barns is not his eyesight, he just don't give a darn. His taste for wood could be a blessing in hard times. You could just put green goggles on him and turn him loose around a sawmill."

Mr. Drew's grandson, James Drew IV, also a barber, vends a few gross of old ax handles to unwary tourists each summer. "I don't feel a bit guilty when I carve the initials A. L. on those ax handles," he remarked. "It makes up for the unpleasantness Grandpa had with Mr. Lincoln's horse."

James Drew IV



174

FARMINGTON  
(Bardstown Rd., Wendell St.,  
Louisville, Jefferson Co.)

Historic residence completed by John Speed in 1810 from designs by Thomas Jefferson. Abraham Lincoln was a guest here of his close friend Joshua Speed in 1841. Open to the public.

120

LINCOLN KNOB CREEK FARM  
(6 mi. NE Hodgenville,  
US 31E, Larue Co.)

Abraham Lincoln, (1809-1865) lived on this 228 acre farm, 1811-1816. He wrote in 1860 "My earliest recollection is of the Knob Creek place." A younger brother was born here.

827

LINCOLN'S PLAYMATE  
(Pleasant Grove Baptist Church,  
Ky. 84 Larue Co.)

To the west, in Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, is the grave of Austin Gollaher, 1806-98. Lincoln, while president, once said, "I would rather see (him) than any man living." They were schoolmates and playmates when the Lincoln family lived in this area, 1813 to 1816. Gollaher is credited with rescuing Lincoln from flooded waters of Knob Creek.

774

COUNTY NAMED, 1780  
(Stanford Courtyard,  
US 27, 150, Lincoln Co.)

For Benjamin Lincoln, 1733-1810. Born Mass. In War of Revolution took Mass. Regts. to reinforce New York, 1776; at Saratoga, 1777, cut Burgoyne's communications with Canada; 1778, command of Southern Dept. Commissioned by Washington to receive sword of Cornwallis at British surrender, Yorktown, 1781. Sec. of War, 1781-84. Led forces that quelled Shay's Rebellion.

860

LINCOLN COUNTY  
(Stanford Bypass,  
Jct. US 27, 150, Lincoln Co.)

Benjamin Logan built Logan's Fort at St. Asaphs, mile to west, 1776. Kentucky County, Virginia, formed 1776. First land court, St. Asaphs 1779. Kentucky made into Lincoln, Jefferson, Fayette counties, 1780. In 1785 part of Lincoln taken for Madison and Mercer counties. Stanford named and made county seat, 1786. Records in courthouse from 1781, oldest in the state.

1109

CREELSBORO  
(Creelsboro, Ky. 1313, Russell Co.)

Laid out, 1809, named for Elijah and Elza Creel, pioneers whose son, Reuben, served US in Mexico; his son Enrique served Mexico in US. An interpreter for Gen. W. T. Ward during Mexican War, Reuben stayed on there, was appointed US Consul, 1863, by Pres. Lincoln. Enrique was Governor of Chihuahua State, 1903 to 1906, and Mexican Ambassador to US, 1906 to 1909.

854

WASHINGTON COUNTY  
(Marion County line, Ky. 55,  
Washington Co.)

The first county formed by first Assembly of Kentucky, 1792. Named for Geo. Washington. Springfield, county seat, laid off, 1793, by Matthew Walton; veteran of War of Revolution, legislator. Courthouse built in 1816, oldest used as such in state (1965). First settlers in area, 1776. Lincoln's grandfather came this part Ky., 1782; parents married in county, 1806. (Reverse not included.)

526

LINCOLN HOMESTEAD  
(US 150, Ky. 55, Springfield  
Courtyard, Washington Co.)

The certified marriage bond of Thomas Lincoln to Nancy Hanks, parents of Abraham Lincoln, is on file

here in Washington Co. Courthouse. Here also preserved is full account of the wedding. Lincoln Homestead State Park, seven miles north, now marks the site of log house where marriage was performed June 12, 1806 by the Rev. Jesse Head, Methodist Pastor.

1038

JESSE HEAD HOMESITE  
(Main St., N. of Courthouse,  
Springfield, US 150, Washington Co.)

On June 12, 1806 he performed the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, who, in 1809, became the parents of Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the U.S. Head, born in Maryland in 1768, "came a-preaching" to Kentucky in 1798. Cabinet maker, justice of peace, on Sundays he preached fearlessly. Moved shop to Harrodsburg, 1810, kept on preaching, began newspaper.

649

WOODFORD COUNTY'S  
CIVIL WAR GENERALS  
(US 62, Versailles, Woodford Co.)

*Maj. Gen. Charles William Field*, 1828-1892, Confederate soldier, engineer; West Point, 1849. Frontier service in southwest to 1855, instructor in cavalry tactics West Point to 1861. Colonel 6th Virginia Cav. 1861. Brig. gen infantry brigade 1862. Opened battle at Mechanicsville; fought at Cedar Mt., 2nd Bull Run, in latter seriously wounded, never fully recovering, 1864, maj. gen. in command Hood's Texas div. Bore heavy part in battles at Cold Harbor and Petersburg. His division half of Lee's army and only effective fighting unit intact left to surrender at Appomattox.

*Brig. Gen. James S. Jackson*, 1823-1862, Union soldier, lawyer, Congressman, veteran Mexican War. Authorized by Lincoln, he recruited 3rd Ky. Cav. in fall 1861. For a time commanded Buell's entire cavalry. Commissioned brig. gen., assigned to command 10th Div. of Buell's army, July 1862. Leading troops at Perryville, he was killed Oct. 8, 1862. Forney wrote: "To die such a death, and for such a cause, was the highest ambition of a man like James S. Jackson . . . He was a Union man for the sake of the Union; and now with his heart's blood, he has sealed his devotion to the flag."

*Maj. Gen. Eli Long*, 1837-1903, Union soldier, graduated from Kentucky Military Institute, 1855. Frontier service against Indians until 1861. Organized 4th Ohio Cavalry as colonel, 1862. Commissioned brig. gen., 1864. Commanded brigade during Atlanta campaign, 1864. He led an assault at Selma, Alabama, March 1865, where his bravery inspired the troops in Union's greatest cavalry victory and for which he was breveted maj. gen. During the Civil War he was wounded five times and cited for gallantry five times. After war lived at Plainfield, New Jersey and is buried there in Hillsdale Cemetery. (Reverse not included.)

## HORSES

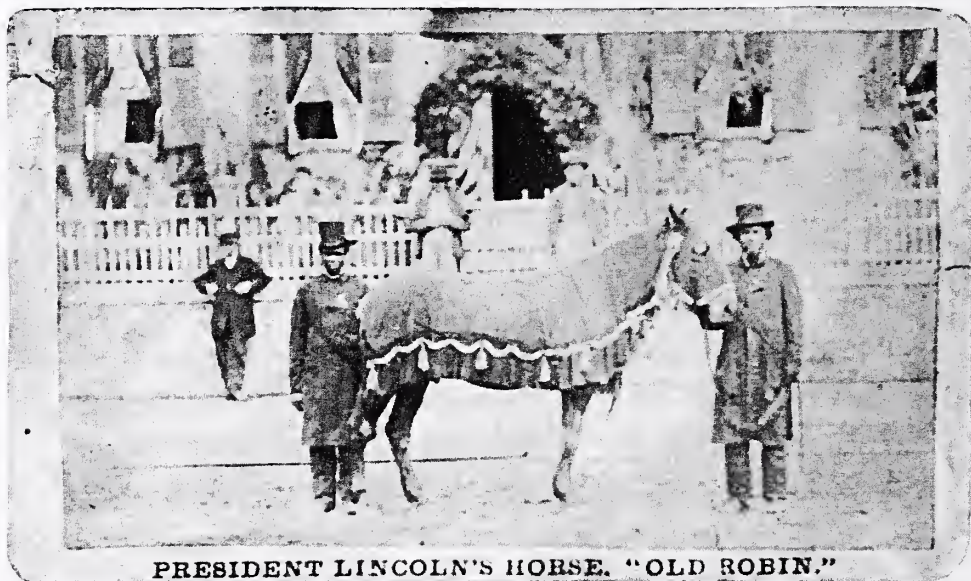
Both Abraham Lincoln and his father could appraise the value of a horse. While a soldier in the Black Hawk War, Lincoln appraised his stolen horse and equipment at \$120. While Thomas Lincoln in 1811 described an estray horse as follows: "... a gray mare 8 years old 14 hands high. Branded on the near thigh but not legible a scar on her off side with a dark spot on her neck on the off side under the main about the size of a dollar a sore Back trots natural appraised to \$20."

The above description appears in an old Hardin County (Kentucky) estray book with entries from 1806 to 1815. While the Kentucky pioneers may have been at a loss for words concerning a lot of mundane things, they certainly knew how to describe the color of a horse. The nine hundred and six entries in the old estray book contains these different descriptive colors: bay, bright bay, dark bay, brown bay, dark brown, light brown, dun color, gray, dapple gray, dark gray, flea-bitten gray, iron gray, bright gray, bright iron gray, milk and caider (sic) color, sorrel, bright sorrel, brown sorrel, yellow sorrel, roan, red roan, strawberry roan, yellow, white and flea-bitten white.

LINCOLN IN PHOTOGRAPHS

LINCOLN KNEW AND LIKED THESE ANIMALS. The stories about Lincoln's affection for animals are many—how he climbed a tree to put a small bird back into its nest, pulled a squealing pig from the mud, or plunged into freezing water to rescue his dog from an ice floe. Pictured here are two animals he knew intimately and which shared his life.

Lincoln allowed his boys, Willie and Tad, to have all the pets they wished, and the result was a family menagerie of cats, turtles, white rats, frogs, chicks, dogs, and a talking crow.

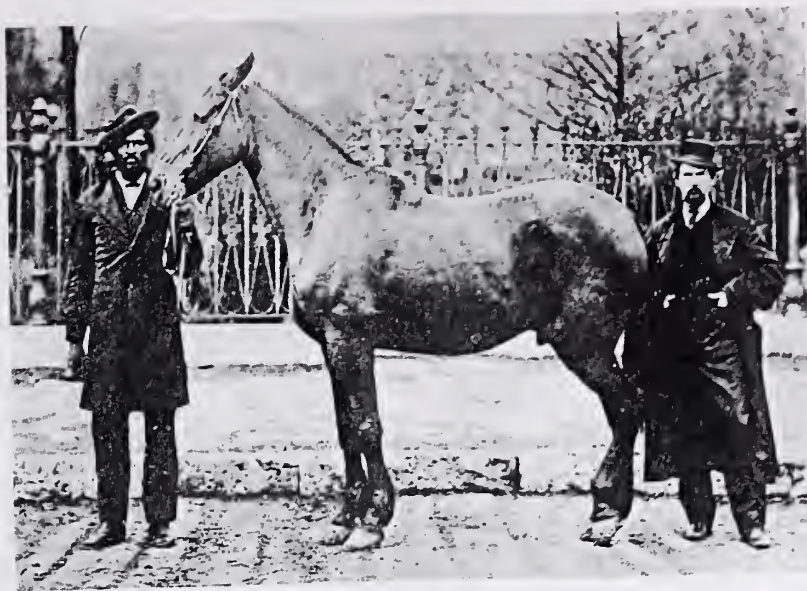


PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S HORSE. "OLD ROBIN."

Ostendorf collection

OLD ROBIN IN FRONT OF THE SPRINGFIELD HOME. Photograph of Lincoln's horse by F. W. Ingmire of Springfield. The two men with "Old Bob," as he was nicknamed, are Rev. Brown (left) and Rev. Trevan. Other horses owned by Lincoln were "Old Tom," his first circuit horse, and "Old Buck," about 1850-55.





Ostendorf collection

OLD ROBIN SURVIVED HIS FAMOUS MASTER. Another photograph of Lincoln's horse taken in Springfield on the day of the President's funeral. The man is John Flynn, who purchased the horse from Lincoln on January 23, 1861. With Flynn is a Negro groom.

THREE PHOTOGRAPHS OF FIDO by F. W. Ingmire of Springfield, taken early in 1861. When Lincoln and his family left for Washington, this family pet was presented to John and Frank Roll, playmates of Willie and Tad.

Illinois State Historical Society





# Cleveland Man Lent Lincoln His Horse

By ARCHER H. SHAW

A Cleveland man, dying in 1929 at 88 years of age, kept among his cherished memories the part he played in protecting Abraham Lincoln from enemy attack in the dark hours of the Civil War. He was George C. Ashmun, for years prominent in the public affairs of this city. The story of his service is one of the lesser known tales of the war.

When Gov. Tod of Ohio was in Washington in October, 1863, Secretary Stanton told of a growing anxiety for the personal safety of the president. Rumors were persistent that at some favorable opportunity an attempt at abduction or assassination would be made. Lincoln's own seeming indifference to the danger complicated Stanton's problem. A company of infantry was on duty at the White House, but a detachment of cavalry which had served as an escort was no longer available.

The Ohio governor offered to raise a cavalry troop for this particular duty, and the War Department approved the plan. It was decided to recruit 100 men, each to be six feet tall or more, as far as possible to pick them with military experience. Each of the state's 88 counties would contribute to the personnel, so far as practicable. Their mounts were black, and chosen with almost as much care as marked the choosing of the men.

## War Veteran

George C. Ashmun had been at the front as a lieutenant in the Eighth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, been wounded and returned to his home at Tallmadge for recuperation. He was asked to represent Summit County in the new troop. Known as the United Light Guard, Seventh Independent Troop, Ohio Cavalry, these stalwart Buckeyes left for Washington on Dec. 22, 1863, and were at once assigned to duty at strategic points about the capital, not forgetting their prime purpose to defend the person of the president. The rest of that winter, however, was spent largely in drilling.

In June, 1864, the president returned to his summer residence at the Soldiers' Home, four miles north of the White House, usually driving out in the evening and back in the morning. The Buckeye troop was his constant escort, often pressing close about the carriage to

thwart possible attack.

This was the summer the Confederate Gen. Jubal A. Early hung about the outskirts of Washington for three days, threatening to sack the city, and anxiety weighed heavily on everyone. Dr. Ashmun believed to the end of his days that Early could have taken the capital had he tried, but was deterred by uncertainty as to the strength of the Federal defense. The Soldiers' Home was in a particularly exposed position.

The president was from the first inclined to minimize the dangers which others believed surrounded him. He was tolerant, but did not welcome the constant attendance of his bodyguard. One midnight young Ashmun observed the tall figure of Lincoln strolling alone and unconcerned beyond the picket line, an easy mark for kidnaper or assassin. "Isn't this rather risky?" the trooper asked. "Oh, I guess not," replied the president. "I couldn't rest and thought I'd take a walk."

Each member of the guard naturally took great pride in his sleek, black mount, and Ashmun was flattered one day when the president asked to borrow his particular horse. He kept the horse three days, but upon its return Ashmun found he could no longer control the horse and had to trade him for another. As an equestrian, it appeared, Lincoln ranked definitely below the Ohio standard of excellence.

Ten days after the election, at Mrs. Lincoln's request, Ashmun headed a detail of half a dozen troopers who spent several nights on guard inside the White House. Between then and the inauguration in March the troop was on duty at presidential receptions—a service the men thoroughly disliked because they thought it smacked of lackeyism. The troop was on duty at the inauguration and it stood near the casket as the president's body lay in state in the Capitol. The men's duty as bodyguard was over, although they continued in service until mid-September. At Ashmun's death in 1929 he was believed to be the last surviving member of the Union Light Guard.

George C. Ashmun's active military career ended when, as a veteran of 24, he came to Cleveland at the end of his service with the famous guard. A variety of im-

portant civic duties lay ahead. He was graduated from medical school in 1873, became a professor in the Cleveland College of Medicine when it was a part of Wooster College, and retired from Reserve Medical School as a professor emeritus in 1924. He was president of the Cleveland Board of Education, president of the Cleveland City Council and health officer for seven years. As health chief for the city he was credited with persuading the people of Cleveland that keeping pigs in their backyards was not in the public interest. Meanwhile, he engaged in general medical practice, in addition to his civic activities.

With service records in three wars, Dr. Ashmun died June 25, 1929, in Cleveland Heights.

Plain Dealer

Plain Dealer

---

## — Making — Conversation

BY J. EMIL SMITH

---

Whether Abraham Lincoln rode from New Salem to Springfield on a mule may be a moot question, but Herbert Wells Fay, custodian of Lincoln's tomb says it is certain that Doctor Chandler, the founder of Chandlerville, actually rode from New Salem to Springfield on a horse owned by Lincoln.

The doctor, along with Edgar Lee Masters, and Josephine Craven Chandler, helped to put Spoon River on the historical map. Fired by the



pioneer spirit, Doctor Chandler squatted on the prize eighties adjoining his log cottage home, cleared the stumps, drained the sloughs, turned the sod and planted the crops.

As fast as he was able, he entered the plats and when the land patents were in his name, his ownership was secure. His only fear was the activities of the so-called cowbirds of the pioneer settlements. On one occasion one of these snoopers appeared and asked questions of the neighbors about Doctor Chandler's land entries that sent the physician at once to the land office at Springfield.

In the mire of the bottomless trails his horse gave out near New Salem. As fate sometimes favors the worthy, the doctor met Lincoln who in the kindness of his heart suggested the exchange of horses. Chandler hastened to Springfield and made his belated entries. At the door he met the snoopers.

## HELPED LINCOLN IN PERIL.

Horsemanship of an Orderly that Maybe Saved the President's Life.

*From the Chicago Daily Inter-Ocean.*

In March, 1864, the veteran Army of the James was encamped at "Camp Grant," near Georgetown, a short distance out from Washington, D. C. Gen. B. F. Butler was in command, under whose guidance the army was to operate against Richmond from north of the James. This magnificent army of 40,000 men was, upon a day set apart for the purpose, reviewed by the President and his staff in person. No grander army had been seen at Washington, or one of which greater results were confidently expected. The dignitaries of the nation were present, embracing the Cabinet and a vast throng of noted personages.

The army in line waited the formal arrival of the distinguished chieftain, and became impatient for the opportunity to give enthusiastic expression of its great loyalty and appreciation. The moment came, and, mounted upon one of Gen. Butler's war horses, appeared the then idol of the liberty-loving, loyal world. Beside him was Gen. Butler, on another fine steed, both animals in perfect condition from their long Winter rest in bountiful stables.

The artillery thundered its national salute; the bands rent the air with their most inspiring notes; the men could not be restrained with dignity, and their voices in unison proclaimed not only a deep appreciation of the scene, but also ardent love for their supreme leader, Abraham Lincoln. There he sat upon that wonderful horse, whose every tendon and muscle was in full play.

Imagine if you can the spectacle. The President, dressed as so often described in the "Prince Albert" made for the "other fellow," fitting only on the tops of the shoulders, with trousers and boots to correspond, the latter so loose and wrinkled from service as to scarcely stay on. His stove-pipe hat covered the most unkempt hair that ever graced a sacred head.

Thus we see him, when the pent-up fires within that horse, under the wild enthusiasm, drove him onward and onward, faster and faster up the front of that admiring army. The President was now exerting all the strength he possessed to control his fly-

ing steed. Gen. Butler sought to ride up and lend aid, but to no purpose. His big sorrel was no match for the black charger; the attempt seemed to madden the President's horse. On he came, increasing his speed until he seemed to be flying. The President's hat was gone; his hair streamed in the wind; his square-toed, wrinkled boots stood out in the strained stirrups, while his long, lank arms were convulsed in their vain efforts to control the beast.

In breathless stillness we watched the threatened catastrophe the whole army seemed powerless to avert. Slowly but surely the philosophy of the President was thwarting the instinct of the horse; not able to check his speed, which would soon carry him into Georgetown and through the bridge, he could divert his course by using all his strength on one rein. This he did and across the plain on a tangent they flew.

Hark! that unearthly cheering away down the line! Like a volcano it burst forth and all eyes were in an instant turned. Officers had urged their fatted, clumsy chargers in vain, but here comes our hero. An orderly—a private soldier—bringing up the extreme rear, witnessed the disaster and the futile efforts of the officers near the scene. Lying flat upon his horse's mane, with rowels deeply planted in his flanks, he sped up that bewildered line like a rocket of warning. On, on, he went. Away across the plain, almost beyond our vision, he swept in his course to the side of the President. In an instant he was on his feet, had caught the incorrigible stallion by the bit, and the mad ride was over; the President rescued. Lincoln, by the help of an orderly, rather fell than dismounted to the ground, where he lay exhausted until a carriage was sent to him.

I was at the time told, and now from an indistinct recollection believe, Mrs. Kate Chase Sprague gave her place in a carriage to the President before whom the army passed in review, she riding the charger.

I heard Gen. Butler say in after time that his Negro hostler was at fault in the matter. "Cuffy," it seems had, during the Winter, been running "snap" races with that horse without the general's knowledge. So when the general sought to catch him it was the signal for more speed.

This true incident may be unworthy of notice, but I, among thousands more, will remember it throughout our lives, as an exciting and trying episode in a life fraught with more dignified trials, but with few more perilous.



# LINCOLN MOUNTS HORSE TO ESCAPE

GEORGE M. BRINKERHOFF, SR.,  
TELLS INCIDENT.

Relates Lincoln Rally In Springfield  
August 8, 1860, When Enthusiasts  
Found Nominee To Leave Carriage  
For Safety—Writer One of Two Who  
Lifts Tall Man to Steed—Recalls His  
Burial.

The great Lincoln rally in Springfield August 8, 1860, the formal opening of the campaign that resulted in the election of the great emancipator as president, is said to have been the most important event of that historic political struggle. Lincoln attended the rally which was held at the old fair grounds in the west part of the city and so great was the enthusiasm of his admirers that it was necessary to abandon the carriage in which he had entered the grounds and escape on horseback.

An account of the rally published in The State Journal of August 9, 1860, says: "Lincoln descended from the platform \* \* \* and by an adroit movement escaped on horseback, while the crowd besieged the carriage."

## Helps Lincoln Make Escape.

One of the few men living in Springfield today who knew Lincoln personally is George M. Brinkerhoff, sr., 515 Keys avenue, who was one of the two men who helped the candidate for the presidency escape from the throng at the great rally and has a clear and distinct recollection of the "adroit movement" mentioned in the newspaper accounts.

Brinkerhoff and Bob Officer, now deceased, acted as mounted escort to Mr. Lincoln as he drove in a carriage from the home on South Eighth street to the fair grounds. When it came time for the candidate to retire the crowd was so dense that it was impossible to get the carriage through mass of people. The enthusiasts were so anxious to greet their candidate that fear was entertained for Lincoln's life.

## Lifted From Carriage to Horse.

The two escorts secured an extra horse and forced it close to the carriage stalled in the dense crowd. Lincoln, minus his tall hat was lifted from the carriage onto the saddle of the extra horse, and with Brinkerhoff on one side and Officer on the other, was hurried from the grounds. The two escorts were compelled to use their sticks to force the people out of the way of the candidate. Once free from the crowd the trio had little difficulty in getting back to Lincoln's home, although many of the more enthusiastic pursued the bareheaded presidential candidate for some distance before they gave up the chase.

One more determined member of a Chicago company of "Wideawakes" stuck doggedly to the chase until he stood panting at the home of Lincoln, where his persistence was rewarded by a warm handshake from the candidate.

## Oysters Instead of Wines.

Brinkerhoff recalls many interesting reminiscences of the great emancipator

and among them is one concerning Lincoln's temperate habits. Although it was customary for the best families of the city at the time to serve liquors to callers on New Year's day Brinkerhoff remembers calling at Lincoln's home on the first day of January, 1861, the last New Year's the president ever spent in the city, and found none of the usual supply of drinks on hand. Instead Lincoln invited Brinkerhoff and those who called with him to step into the dining room and enjoy a dish of oysters which they did.

At the time of Lincoln's burial Brinkerhoff was city comptroller of Springfield and brings to mind the agitation started at the time to have the body of the president interred elsewhere than at Oak Ridge, which was then outside the city limits. It was felt that the tomb of Lincoln would be a shrine to which his admirers would come and business men of the city thought it best to have the location of the burying place convenient of access. The agitation resulted in the purchase of the ground on which the state house now stands, the known as the Mather lot.

## Oak Ridge Second Choice.

As city comptroller Brinkerhoff had charge of the financial part of the securing of the lot. A vault to hold the body was constructed near the corner of Second and Monroe streets, the necessary masonry work having been done by J. B. Irwin and his two sons, one of whom, H. Cook Irwin, is still a resident of the city. At first Mrs. Lincoln consented to the burial of her husband's body in the place prepared for it, but while en route to Springfield, changed her mind and selected Oak Ridge cemetery. C. M. Smith, a brother-in-law of Lincoln's, and interested in the new cemetery is believed to have been instrumental in inducing Mrs. Lincoln to consent to the change.

Even after the body arrived in Springfield there were rumors that the body would be placed in the vault on the Mather lot but the decision of the family for the cemetery was not changed, although a majority of the people of the city favoring the down town location were disappointed.

## State House Covers Site.

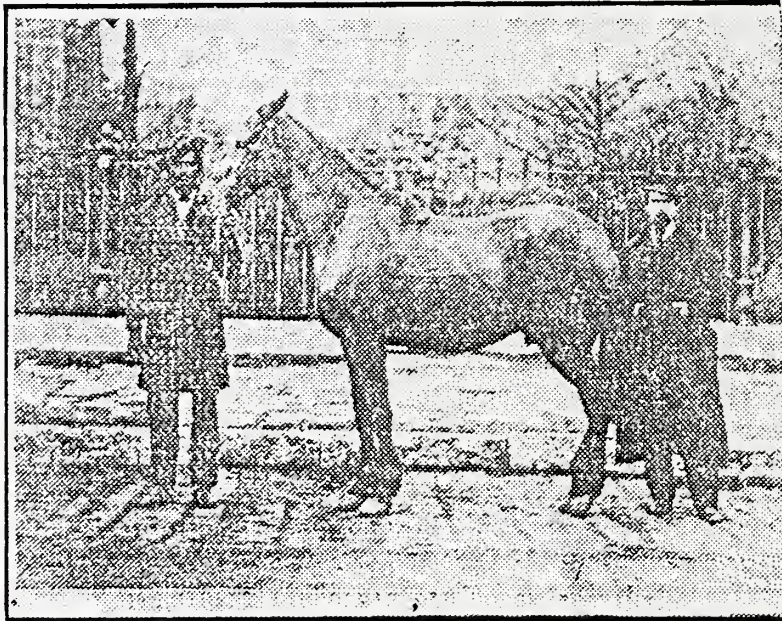
In after years the wisdom of the choice of Oak Ridge cemetery as a burying ground was justified and the ground that was once intended for Lincoln's tomb, was used for the erection of a new state house.

To pay the expense of Lincoln's funeral the city of Springfield issued \$20,000 in bonds, which were handled by Brinkerhoff as shown by the records now on file in the city comptroller's office. Of the delegation that went from Springfield to Chicago to act as escort for the homecoming of the lamented president's remains but three survive. One is Brinkerhoff, another is C. L. Conkling of this city and the third is Judge Charles S. Zane, now living at Salt Lake City, Utah.

52K

---

## **"Old Robin," Lincoln's Favorite Horse**



"Old Robin," Lincoln's favorite horse, was led by a groom in the triumphal parade staged immediately after the surrender of General Lee to General Grant. The horse was covered with a red, white and blue blanket, ornamented with hundreds of small flags, all of which were grabbed for souvenirs. "Old Robin" also was led behind the hearse in the Lincoln funeral procession.

---





